REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated June 19, 2009. Claims 1, 2, 6 to 8, 12 to 14 and 16 are in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 8, 12 and 14 being independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 6 to 8, 12 to 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,151,457 (Kawamoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,533,175 (Lung) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,413,275 (Horiuchi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8 and 14

Among its many features, Claim 1 provides for predicting coded data amounts for respective printing color components based on a designated table and the sizes of halftone image areas and character/line image areas included in respective printing color components. The applied references of Kawamoto, Lung and Horiuchi are not seen to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

The Office Action concedes that Kawamoto and Lung do not disclose this claimed feature, but alleges that Horiuchi's disclosure of generating of a half-tone image corresponds with the claimed feature.

However, as mentioned in the March 24, 2009 Amendment, Horiuchi is not seen to disclose or suggest that its half-tone image is generated based on the sizes of halftone image areas and character/line image areas in respective printing color components.

Furthermore, the Office Action at page 10 directs attention to column 6, lines 41 to 52 of Horiuchi. In this regard, the cited portion is seen to disclose that in each of dot pattern generators 45 to 48, the locations and sizes of the ink dots to be depicted in a dot matrix having n x m, for instance 3 x 3, possible positions for constructing an image element are determined in accordance with color density signals by referring to a predetermined table. Thus, dot pattern generator 45, when a series of yellow color density signals are fed thereto, converts these into three series of yellow color dot signals. In the case of a dot matrix of 4 x 4 possible positions for an image element, a dot pattern generator for producing four series of color dot signals can be employed.

However, nothing in the above-cited portion of Horiuchi is seen to correspond with the "coded data amounts", as claimed. Accordingly, Horiuchi is not seen to disclose or suggest predicting coded data amounts for respective printing color components, much less that such predicting is based on a designated table and the sizes of halftone image areas and character/line image areas included in respective printing color components.

Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, each of independent Claims 8 and 14 provide at least for predicting coded data amounts for respective printing color components based on a designated table and the sizes of halftone image areas and character/line image areas included in respective printing color components. Accordingly, Claims 8 and 14 are believed to be allowable over Kawamoto, Lung and Horiuchi for at least the above-discussed reasons.

Claims 6 and 12

Among its many features, Claim 6 provides for calculating code data amounts for the respective printing color components by counting data amounts of quantized halftone image areas and character/line image areas for respective printing color components in accordance with a designated table.

The applied references of Kawamoto, Lung and Horiuchi are not seen to disclose or suggest at least this feature, for reasons similar to those discussed above.

Claim 6 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, independent Claim 12 provides at least for calculating code data amounts for the respective printing color components by counting data amounts of quantized halftone image areas and character/line image areas for respective printing color components in accordance with a designated table. Accordingly, Claim 12 is believed to be allowable over Kawamoto, Lung and Horiuchi for at least the above-discussed reasons.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Finally, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner conduct a personal or telephonic interview with Applicant's representative regarding this case, before the Examiner takes this filing into consideration. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative as indicated below.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/John D. Magluyan/
John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 56,867

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FCHS_WS 3767939v1